

REMARKS

Responsive to the Official Action mailed October 22, 2003, Applicant provides the following remarks. Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application, as amended, are respectfully requested.

Claim Amendments

Applicant notes, with appreciation, the Examiner's allowance of claims 10-17, and the indicated allowability of claim 4. Claim 4 has been rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of claim 1, and is now in a condition for allowance. Also, claims 2 and 5-9 have been amended to depend from claim 4. These claims are also in a condition for allowance, by virtue of their dependency, as well as for their own limitations. No new matter has been added.

Independent claim 18 has been amended to include limitations similar to those of original claim 4, and to remove limitations relating to a "cap", which have been presented in new claim 25. Claims 20 and 24 have been amended to depend from claim 25 to provide appropriate antecedent basis. Again, no new matter has been added. Support for these amendments may be found through out the specification, and in the originally filed claims.

35 U.S.C. §103 Rejections

Claims 1, 5 and 7 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Simon (US Pat. No. 3,809,798) in view of Mullen, Jr. (US Pat. No. 6,300,569). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Independent claim 1 has been cancelled, without prejudice, rendering the rejection thereof moot. Claims 5 and 7 have been amended to depend from claim 4, which the Examiner has indicated as being allowable. Claims 5 and 7 are thus allowable by virtue of their dependency, as well as for their own limitations. It is respectfully submitted, therefore, that the rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103 should be withdrawn upon reconsideration.

Claims 2, 3, 6, 8 and 9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Simon in view of Mullen, Jr. and further in view of Stikeleather et al. (US. Pat. No. 4,880,387). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claims 2, 3, 6, 8 and 9 now depend, either directly or ultimately, from claim 4, which the Examiner has indicated as being allowable. These claims are thus allowable by virtue of their dependency, as well as for their own limitations. It is respectfully submitted, therefore, that the rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103 should be withdrawn upon reconsideration.

Claims 18-24 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Simon in view of Stikeleather et al. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 18, as amended, requires a connector for connecting conduit to a junction box including a "base comprising a plurality of resiliently deformable elements configured to

establish a snap fit connection with said opening in said junction box”, and “at least one spring member for resiliently retaining said conduit at approximately a right angle to said opening in said junction box.” These limitations are not found in any of the cited references, or any combination thereof.

In fact, with respect to the limitations of original claim 4 requiring “a plurality of spring members for resiliently retaining said conduit at approximately a right angle to said opening in said junction box”, at Paragraph 5 of the Official Action the Examiner pointed out:

The primary reason for the indication of allowability of claim 4 is: ...the inclusion therein in combination as currently claimed of the limitation of said base having a plurality of spring members for resiliently retained (sic) said conduit at approximately a right angle to said opening in said junction box.

This limitation was found in claim 4, and is neither disclosed nor taught by the prior art of record, alone or in combination.

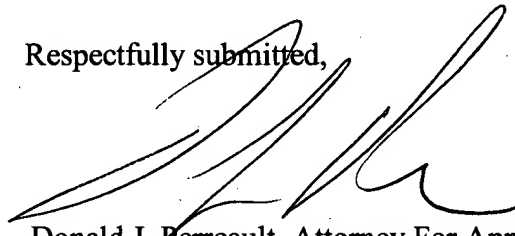
Applicants respectfully submit that the amendment of claim 18 to require “at least one spring member for resiliently retaining said conduit at approximately a right angle to said opening in said junction box” renders claim 18, and dependent claims 19-24, allowable over the prior art of record. Certainly, neither Simon nor Stikeleather teaches or suggests such a limitation, and they have not been cited by the Examiner as providing such a teaching. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection of claim 18, and claims 19-24 which depend from claim 18, under 35 U.S.C. § 103 in view of Simon and Stikeleather should be withdrawn upon reconsideration.

In light of the foregoing claim amendments and remark, Applicant respectfully submits that all of the presently pending claims are now in a condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

Early allowance is earnestly solicited. In the event the Examiner deems personal contact desirable in disposition of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney at (603) 668-6560.

No fees are believed to be due. In the event there are any fee deficiencies, please charge them (or credit any overpayment) to our Deposit Account No. 50-2121.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Perreault', written over the words 'Respectfully submitted,'.

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